

Harvestimes

Winter 2009

THE JOURNAL FOR AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS



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CLAAS

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CLAAS at AGRITECHNICA 2009

– Hall 13: stand 13E02

The results of this high level of investment will be evident at this year's Agritechnica Show, where the CLAAS Group will again have a major presence.

Here the new additions to the CLAAS range will be displayed alongside models from across throughout the current CLAAS range. In addition there will be information on the ancillary products and services CLAAS offers its customers, plus the ever-popular CLAAS Shop, selling the complete CLAAS Collection.



Welcome to the Winter 2009 issue of HarvesTimes which looks specifically at all the new products that have been launched this summer and autumn ahead of the Agritechnica Show, where CLAAS will be displaying probably one of the widest and most diverse ranges of new machinery from any machinery manufacturer at the show.

The changes taking place in agriculture throughout the World means that the development of new machinery and techniques is essential if we are to provide the efficiency and cost savings that our customers seek to meet these demands.

The importance that CLAAS place in research and development to meet these future demands is evident in the fact that during 2008, R&D costs totalled 113 million Euros, a rise of 3.8% on the previous year, which is well above the industry average.

The industry leading innovations that CLAAS are developing are also reflected in the fact that during 2008, the company applied for a total of 67 patents.

Cover: A 1961 CLAAS SF is dwarfed by a LEXION 600TT with the latest 12m VARIO cutterbar at Westwood Hall Farm, Suffolk.

(Photo: Mid Suffolk Agri Photos: www.midsuffolkagriphotos.co.uk)



New CLAAS apprentices

The success and support for the CLAAS Agricultural Apprenticeship based at Reaseheath in Cheshire and Barony College near Dumfries, is evident in the fact that 22 new students have joined the scheme this year from CLAAS dealerships throughout the UK.

This year will see the first group of nine students starting their four-year apprenticeship based at Reaseheath College. This follows the decision by CLAAS UK to enter into a new training partnership with the college, which is based near Nantwich in Cheshire.

The nine students include two each from Seward in Yorkshire and Olivers (Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire). The other students come from: Kirby (Leicestershire); Southern Harvesters (Berkshire); Marsh (Lincolnshire); Hamblys (Cornwall) and R&G Williams (Gwynedd).

In Scotland, 13 new students have joined the scheme this year from the CLAAS dealerships of Rickerby (north England), Sellars (north east Scotland) and Gordons (south west Scotland).

On both courses the students will be studying for a National Diploma in Land Based Technology. This qualification is seen as a practical hands-on alternative to 'A' Levels, and CLAAS is helping to lead the way in the adoption of this course.

One of the main benefits of the Diploma, other than higher technical credibility, is that upon qualification, the successful candidate will receive a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade, which will enable them to better demonstrate and gain recognition for their progression and ability.

Following their graduation from the Apprenticeship scheme, these Service Engineers will be able to follow the comprehensive CLAAS UK training development plan, which is laid out by the CLAAS Academy and aligned with the Landbased Technician Accreditation (LTA) scheme.



Starting the four-year CLAAS Apprenticeship at Reaseheath are: James Burton; Timothy Nicholls; Tom Jackson; Tom Lambert; Jack Ashton; Tom Thomas; Daniel Jenkin; William Honey and Glenn Michie.



Starting the four-year CLAAS Apprenticeship at Barony are: Andrew Hamilton; Christopher Low; Thomas Johnston; Sean Vannet; David McAuley; Thomas Greensmith; Darren Beattie; Mark Laidlaw; Ross Fisher; Sean Clarke; Daniel Brown; Jonathan Robinson and Jack Phillips.

Royal Highland Show winner: Craig Henderson of Dunning, Perth is presented with his S-Lite GPS guidance unit from Sandy MacDonald of Sellars.

S-Lite GPS system Prize Draw winners



John Pridgeon of Keddington in Lincolnshire, who was the winner of the Cereals event S-Lite GPS guidance prize draw, receives his prize from Gordon Cummings of Marsh.



VARIO goes to 12m

As on the smaller V1050, the new V1200 cutterbar features a split reel and auger, both supported on a central bearing, but in order to provide greater stability and uniformity of the increased crop matter being handled, the intake auger itself has also been enlarged to 660mm diameter (580mm on the VARIO V1050). Due to its greater width the V1200 also features a new split knife bar, with a three-section overlap in the middle.

Instead of belt drives, the V1200 uses dual synchronised gear drives on each side of the cutterbar. These not only provide a more positive drive to handle the greater amount of cut material, but also ensure operational quietness and require minimal maintenance. In addition, the cutting frequency has been increased from 1120 strokes/minute to 1334 strokes/minute and to avoid vibration the two knife bars drive in opposing directions.

The reel runs on patented polymer shaft bearings and features crescent shaped reel tine arms designed to eliminate crop wrapping and so reduce harvest losses.

As with all other VARIO cutterbars, the distance between the knife and the intake auger can be varied from 48cm to 78cm whilst on the move, which can help improve crop flow by up to 10%, and the new mechanical drive system incorporates telescopic shafts to accommodate this. For oilseed rape, using infill plates and a longer drive shaft, the distance can be further extended to 108cm.

The cutterbar is designed so that oilseed rape side-knives can be quickly and easily mounted, and is equipped with a hydraulic pump with quick release couplings at each end of the cutterbar. The V1200 also comes as standard with twin foldable LASER PILOT units and folding crop dividers.

The V1200 is transported on a new design of trailer which features equal width axles that allow it to be towed at speeds of up to 40kph. The trailer is also fitted with a secure storage box that is sufficiently large to accommodate both the oilseed rape filler plates and side knives.

PRE-PRODUCTION VERDICT

Richard Ledger, Kent

Both Richard Ledger (left) and his combine driver Nigel Richardson have been extremely impressed by how well matched the new 12 metre VARIO cutterbar and LEXION 600TT are.

"It's brilliant," states Richard Ledger, who farms at Little Mongeham in Kent and previously ran a LEXION 600TT with a 10.5m cutterbar. "The combination have gone incredibly well. They are definitely well matched. The combine forward speed is no different but thanks to the bigger cross auger and the shaft drive, the cutterbar is far smoother and has fed extremely well. And even after 1600ha we are still on the original set of knives."

"It's been no problem," agrees Nigel Richardson. "It's the ideal header for the LEXION 600TT."

"The combine is going no slower, but you have 1.5m more cutting width so greater output, plus you have fewer turns and passes across the fields, so are clearing fields quicker and leaving less wheelings. In a good 12 hour day in 10+ tonne crops, I could comfortably clear about 65ha, and in oilseed rape having pushed the knife right out and fitted side knives it was perfect and fed really well."

"The shaft drive is not only more positive, but it's easier and quicker to service, plus you don't have the problem of stretched or broken chain links, and because they move in opposite directions, the two knives are really well balanced and smooth."



TUCANO goes Hybrid

Following the successful introduction of the TUCANO range last year, the range has been extended with the addition of a new model, the TUCANO 480, which features the performance-boosting CLAAS Hybrid rotary threshing system, but with just a single, large diameter rotor.

Powered by a 365hp Caterpillar engine and suitable for use with cutterbars up to 9.0m wide, it is expected that the TUCANO 480 will be capable of harvesting up to 680ha.

Cutterbar options

The TUCANO 480 can be fitted with standard and VARIO cutterbars up to 9.0m wide, plus more specialist headers such as for grain maize, all attached using a central multi-coupler.

A new feature on the TUCANO 480 is the inclusion of a flexible bearing in the cutterbar mount, which allows the cutting angle of the cutterbar to be altered depending on field conditions or the size of tyres fitted.

Hybrid threshing

As with the LEXION, on the new Hybrid system in the TUCANO 480, the rotor speed of the APS primary threshing unit is controlled independently of the single ROTO PLUS rotor. This ensures that each element in the threshing system can be individually set to reflect crop conditions and that the crop is carefully threshing without overly damaging the grain or straw.

Each element of the APS system – the accelerator, threshing drum and impeller – are directly driven and synchronised to maintain an even crop flow.

The new single ROTO PLUS rotor is 4200mm long and 570mm in diameter to provide a high centrifugal speed even at low speeds. This helps reduce power requirement

but ensures maximum separation whilst gently handling the straw.

The rotor is directly driven and six operating speeds can be selected: 850; 750; 650; 552; 478 and 422 rpm, so making it easy to find the ideal speed for crop or field conditions.

The cleaning system has a total area of 5.65m² and features a removable grain pan with six turbine fans adjustable from the cab, plus electrically adjusted sieves. As an option, the TUCANO 480 can also be specified with 3D sieves for hillside work.

The TUCANO 480 is fitted with a CLAAS 'Special Cut' 80 blade straw chopper. An 'Active Spreader' is also available as an option, which has two spreading rotors operating in opposite directions, that then accelerates the chopped material for an even spread across the full working width.

Operator comfort

The VISTA cab on the TUCANO 480 provides the operator with a high level of comfort and all the main controls are operated via the main Multifunction joystick.

Using the CEBIS control system, the operator can quickly and easily see and alter all the machine settings, and monitor aspects such as throughput or grain losses, which are measured across the full width of the combine.

Telematics

The new TUCANO 480 can also be fitted with the CLAAS Telematics monitoring system that uses an internet link to upload operational information to a secure website. Data such as the main machine settings can be viewed remotely plus a whole range of output information can be selected, including a Combine League to compare performance with other machines.



PRE-PRODUCTION VERDICT

Jim Hunter-Shaw, Nottinghamshire

Having harvested 600ha with a pre-production TUCANO 480 Hybrid this harvest, Jim Hunter-Shaw has been very impressed by the combine and its performance in the field.

"I have been extremely pleased with the TUCANO 480. We gave it a good work-out and with outputs averaging about 40 t/hr in wheat, it has achieved far more than I expected. Separation in damp conditions is good and as conditions change in the evening, output has not dropped, which is a problem with straw walkers."

"The TUCANO 480 will certainly appeal. It's got high output and I pushed it hard, but the sample is good and losses low which is what's important. Also it has been designed with cost in mind. The concept of having manual operation of features like the straw chopper, tank lids and concave, which don't affect output, and then having electronic control of the sieves, etc, is very sensible. There is a good mix between simplicity and technology."

"The 365hp engine also has plenty of power; we never had problems on hills and fuel consumption is good; even on a 16-hour day we never had to refuel."





PRE-PRODUCTION VERDICT

Rodney Gadd,
Lincolnshire

For Rodney Gadd, the two main attractions of the new AVERO 240 were the fact that it is fitted with the APS threshing system and that the combine was based around well proven threshing components, which are just scaled down.

"Basically you have all the main threshing and design features of the LEXION and TUCANO ranges, but just in a smaller package," explains Rodney.

"For the smaller farmer, I think it's the perfect combine and CLAAS have certainly got the price right; it's affordable and makes buying a new combine a realistic option. But also it's a CLAAS - you know it will be all-right."

"Physically the AVERO not too big, so is very manoeuvrable, and it weighs just over 8 tonnes, so when fitted with wide tyres which we are running at 16psi, it means it has a very light footprint."

In good wheats and working at 5kph, Mr Gadd estimates that the AVERO 240, which has a 4.9m Contour cutterbar, averaged about 15 t/hr and should enable him to cover about 16ha a day, about a third up on his old 150hp combine.

"I have been very impressed by the Caterpillar engine. It's very smooth and obviously has enough power to be on top of the job as it hardly uses any fuel, so can't be under strain."

"The AVERO is a great combine and I like it a lot. With the APS system it's so smooth, you don't get the lumps and thumps that you do with a single drum; it's like a sowing machine - it just purrs smoothly along!"

fan that can be continuously adjusted from the cab. As an option, the AVERO can be fitted with the CLAAS 3D levelling system to reduce losses when working on hillsides.

Cat power
The AVERO 240 is powered by a common-rail, 6.6 litre Caterpillar engine developing 198hp (ECE R 120). A particular feature of this engine is its low fuel consumption and the combine is fitted with a 400 litre fuel tank.

Cab comfort
The redesigned CLAAS VISTA cab features air-conditioning and an air-sprung driver's seat, in addition to a fully adjustable steering column and passenger seat.

A multi-function lever incorporates controls for all the main combine functions, whilst the CLAAS Information System (CIS) provides the operator with a clear display of all the main functions.

The standard specification also includes eight work lights and centralised lubrication points, and a wide range of tyre sizes are available, with front axle sizes ranging from 18.4-30 12PR up to 800/65 R 32, giving transport widths of 2.68m and 3.28m respectively.



New AVERO meets needs of smaller growers

For many smaller arable growers when it comes to harvesting their crops, other than using a contractor, they are faced with the option of either buying a new combine that is probably too big and expensive for their needs, or trying to find a good quality used smaller machine, which is extremely rare because combines this size normally tend to be kept for a long time.

Therefore to meet the needs of farmers with between 40-200 ha of crops to harvest, CLAAS has introduced a new combine, the AVERO 240, which incorporates many features found on larger models to help boost output.

At the heart of the AVERO is a new design of threshing and separation system with 4 straw walkers working in combination with the well-proven APS (Accelerated Pre-Separation) system to give output levels similar to larger 5-walker machines.

VARIO option
As with the larger models, the new AVERO can be used with either a standard CLAAS cutterbar or the VARIO, which can help boost throughput by up to 10%.

For speed and simplicity, all cutterbars are connected using a central multi-coupler, and are carried on 2-way cutterbar cylinders protected by a damping system. The cutterbar features hinged dividers and the reel is hydrostatically driven.

APS threshing
The 1060mm x 450mm APS system on the new AVERO is designed to accelerate and smooth the crop flow into the combine, and to separate up to 30% of the grain in the pre-cleaning concave. It's fitted with a multi-purpose, 151 degree concave that does not need to be changed for different crops and disawning plates can be fitted below the concave.

By threshing out so much grain at this stage, the capacity of the secondary separation system to remove the harder-to-thresh grains is increased, which helps boost output by as much as 20% whilst also saving fuel.

Secondary separation
The AVERO is fitted with four 3900mm long straw walkers with four steps that have a total separation area of 4.8m². The ISS (Intensive Separation System) ensures that large volumes of straw can be handled and any remaining grains efficiently separated. The cleaning system features a long removable grain pan and is fitted with a high-performance

New high output ROLLANT balers

The new high capacity, heavy duty fixed chamber ROLLANT 454 RC, ROLLANT 455RC and the ROLLANT 455 UNIWRAP balers are designed to offer optimum bale density and high outputs even in heavy, dense silage crops.

ROLLANT 454RC and ROLLANT 455RC
A particular feature of these two new ROLLANT models is the ROTO CUT chopping unit, which is fitted with 25 knives giving a minimum chop length of 4.8cm.

The operator can engage either 0; 12; 13 or all 25 knives. Instead of using all the knives for a short chop, the operator can opt to use half the blades for a longer chop length and then once these need re-sharpening, the second half set can then be used.

Another new feature of the ROTO CUT unit is the ability to hydraulically lower the

chopping unit floor. A blockage detection function alerts the operator when the floor is opening by 15mm, allowing him to slow down. To clear the blockage, the operator will firstly lower the knives, then lower the floor and then re-engage the chamber to clear the blockage. Once the PTO speed returns to 500rpm, the floor will lift back up and the knives are re-engaged.

The net wrap system on both balers also features a new electromagnetic brake system, which as the net wrap is used, the braking pressure is altered to ensure that optimum and uniform wrapping tension is maintained.

On the ROLLANT 455, the MPS pressure and bale chamber pressure can be adjusted and both the ROLLANT 454 and ROLLANT 455 feature heavier duty drive chains and roller bearings.

ROLLANT 455 UNIWRAP
The wrapping unit on the ROLLANT 455 incorporates a new hydraulic motor for a higher orbital arm speed. This results in less time to wrap each bale and ensures that the bale has finished wrapping before the next bale is ready to leave the chamber.

Large guide rollers are fitted to ensure the bale is placed centrally on the table when working on hillsides. The UNIWRAP also incorporates new heavy duty knives for greater reliability and to ensure a consistent, clean cut.

The higher arm speed combined with a quicker transfer time from baler to wrapper means that the whole wrapping cycle is up to 30% faster than the current ROLLANT 355 UNIWRAP, giving the ROLLANT 455 UNIWRAP the potential to bale and wrap around 60 bales an hour.

All the main functions are controlled from the cab using the CLAAS COMMUNICATOR. The specification also includes two hydraulically operated film storage boxes capable of holding a total of 12 rolls of film and to keep ground damage to a minimum the baler is carried on 550/60-22.5 tyres, with the option of larger 600/55 26.5 tyres.

PRE-PRODUCTION VERDICT

Archie Smith,
Lanarkshire

In addition to his ROLLANT 255RC and ROLLANT 250CCT balers, Archie Smith has been running a new ROLLANT 454 which by the end of this season had made over 6,500 bales.

"It performed really well and I have been extremely pleased with the capacity of the baler. The intake is really impressive and even though we pushed the baler hard, we only managed to choke it once, so you would have to be doing something pretty silly to choke it regularly," reckons Archie.

"Having 25 knives in the ROTO CUT unit has made a great difference. A lot of my customers use feed wagons, so the ability to use all the knives to get a shorter chop length makes it easier for them to achieve a good, even mix, especially at higher dry matters."

Raking-up 9.0m of grass in front of the baler, Archie reckons that the bales from the ROLLANT 454 are not only denser than those from his ROLLANT 255, but making 5-6 extra bales per hour, the overall tonnage baled per acre has increased.

"Features like the ability to drop the chamber floor and the new automatic netwrap adjustment system all worked well, plus the ROLLANT 454 makes a very tidy bale, that's easy to wrap and the operator got on very well with it."





New versatile ARION 400 range

The new ARION 400 range is designed to meet the needs of livestock or arable farmers in the market for a compact sized, four-cylinder tractor of between 100hp to 130hp.

Consisting of a line up of three models the ARION 400 is based on the same frame as the ARES 500, which it replaces, but utilises many features found on the larger, high specification ARION 500 range.

With an overall length of just 4.44m, the ARION 400 has a tight turning circle of just 4.40m. To keep the overall height to a minimum, the ARION 400 is fitted with a new low profile, flat-roofed ATX version of the ARION 500 cab, which whilst being the most spacious of any tractor this size, gives the ARION 400 an overall height of just 2.74m when on 34 inch wheels. This compares to 2.71m for the AXOS and 2.95m on the ARION 500 range.

However, whilst these compact dimensions are ideal for yard work, this is not at the expense of its ability to handle heavy machinery in the field. With a wheelbase of 2.56m and a greater proportion of the tractor's weight over the front axle, this ensures plenty of grip and provides the ARION 400 with a maximum lift capacity of 6.5 tonnes, making it more than capable of handling heavy implements.

Three models – two variants

Three models are available, the ARION 410; ARION 420 and ARION 430, each of which can be specified in a competitively priced Standard version or a more highly specified CIS variant.

All are powered by 4.5 litre DPS Powertech common rail, turbocharged and intercooled engines with rated/maximum power outputs of 95/100hp; 105/110hp and 115/120hp respectively and maximum torque of 500Nm.

On both variants, the linkage is controlled using the well-proven, easy to use CLAAS TCE 15 linkage system, with additional control buttons located on the rear mudguard.

ARION 400 Standard versions

The Standard version of the ARION 400 is fitted with the well proven 16 forward/16 reverse QUADRISHIFT transmission with push button selection of the four splits in each range. In DLG tests this was shown to have extremely low power losses, making it very efficient at transferring engine power to the wheels.

The tractor comes with a 60 litre/minute open centre hydraulic system and two double-acting mechanical spool valves along with a 540/1000 rpm PTO. A second 40 litre/minute dedicated pump is used for the steering, clutches and hydraulic cooler. The optional higher capacity twin-pump 98 litre/minute open centre hydraulic system, incorporates a diverter to provide greater flow for loader work or the spool valves.

ARION 400 CIS versions

The ARION 400 CIS is designed to meet the needs of those who are looking for a higher level of specification and automation. In addition to the standard power boost, on CIS versions there is a further 10hp power boost at about 6.5kph in range C, giving them boosted maximum power outputs of 110hp; 120hp and 130hp.

The ARION 400 CIS is fitted with the 16 forward/16 reverse QUADRISHIFT transmission, but with the option of QUADRACTIV powershift giving either manual or automatic electro-hydraulic changes between the ranges and the four splits within each range, so providing the flexibility and convenience that would be found with a CVT transmission.

As standard, CIS versions feature the higher capacity 98 litres/minute hydraulic system and three double-acting spool valves. A new electro-hydraulic cross-control joystick is also available which contains both the gearshift controls but allows two hydraulic functions to be used at once, making it ideal for loader work or a front/rear mower combination.

In addition, a 540/1000 and Eco speed PTO is fitted, with external controls on the rear mudguards and an automatic engagement/disengagement for headland turns.

The high specification cab provides an extremely comfortable work environment with air-conditioning, an air seat and passenger seat, plus a refrigerated compartment. Incorporated into the dashboard is the CIS (CLAAS Information System) unit that provides the operator with a wide range of output, management and tractor settings, that are accessed using a rotary and Escape button.



New compact SCORPION

Measuring just 2.26m wide and 2.20m high when on 20 inch tyres, the new SCORPION 6030 CP is one of the smallest telescopic handlers of this capacity on the market.

However these compact dimensions do not take away from the SCORPION's ability to handle heavy loads, and with a maximum lift capacity of 3.0 tonnes and a reach of up to 6.0 metres, it has the highest capacity of any machine in this class.

In order to provide a range of specifications to meet differing needs, the new SCORPION 6030 CP is available in three versions.

Power for the new SCORPION 6030 CP comes from a side-mounted, Deutz 3.6 litre engine with clean air-flow, in which air is sucked in through vents in the front and side of the sealed engine cowling, and then exits through vents at the back to avoid blowing up dust. For very dusty environments, a reversible fan option is available allowing the air intake to be blown clean.

As with larger models, the spacious cab with its distinctive rounded windscreen provides good upward visibility for loading work, and superb all-round, low-level visibility, which is essential when working in confined spaces.

Across all models, the main transmission and boom controls are operated using a cable operated multi-function joystick positioned on the right hand control console

SCORPION 6030 CP (20in)

Where overall height is a particular consideration, the SCORPION 6030 CP on 20in wheels offers the lowest profile, with an overall height of just 2.20 metres, making it ideal for use in low livestock and poultry buildings.

The SCORPION 6030 CP (20in) is powered by a side-mounted 78hp engine, driving through a 30km/h hydrostatic transmission and is fitted with an 84 litre/minute hydraulic circuit.

SCORPION 6030 CP (24in)

Running on 24 inch wheels, the slightly higher SCORPION 6030 CP (24in) is specified with a more powerful 100hp engine, again driving through a 30km/h hydrostatic transmission.

An 84 litres/minute hydraulic system is fitted as standard with the option of a higher capacity 120 litre/minute load sensing system.

In the cab, the higher specification includes air-conditioning and a pick-up hitch.

SCORPION 6030 CP VARIPOWER

Instead of the 30kph hydrostatic transmission fitted to the other two models, the 100hp engine drives through the CLAAS VARIPOWER infinitely variable hydrostatic transmission which has a maximum road speed of 40km/h.

The unique feature of the VARIPOWER transmission is that unlike other transmissions, it has a 45 degree swash angle on the hydraulic motor to give it the ability to go from 0 to 40kph steplessly.

The benefit of this, is that the VARIPOWER transmission provides far greater tractive power, making it ideal for both pushing or towing work, but is also quieter, cooler and more fuel efficient.

The VARIPOWER transmission also incorporates two 'ranges'. In most situations, this will be left in the higher range that covers the complete speed range. The lower 0-7km/h range can be selected on the move for situations requiring greater torque or pushing power.

SCORPION range 2010

Model	Hp	Transmission	Lift capacity (t)	Lift height (m)
SCORPION 6030 CP	78/100	HYDROSTATIC	3.0	6.0
SCORPION 6030 CP VP	100	VARIPOWER	3.0	6.0
SCORPION 7030 VP	120	VARIPOWER	3.3	7.1
SCORPION 7040 VP	120	VARIPOWER	4.0	7.1
SCORPION 9040 VP	120	VARIPOWER	4.0	8.95
SCORPION 7040 VP+	120	VARIPOWER PLUS	4.0	7.1
SCORPION 7045 VP+	140	VARIPOWER PLUS	4.4	7.1
SCORPION 9040 VP+	140	VARIPOWER PLUS	4.0	8.95





Two new DISCO mowers

With a total of 30 different models, in the 15 years since it was launched the CLAAS DISCO range of disc mowers has grown to become one of the most extensive on the market.

For 2010 two new conditioner versions of the DISCO 8400 CONTOUR and DISCO 9100 CONTOUR 'butterfly' triple mowers launched last year have been added to the range.

The two new triple mowers give customers the option of five conditioner and two non-conditioner triple or butterfly models to choose from.

LINER goes wider

For many years the 12m wide LINER 3000 has been the rake of choice for contractors and farmers looking to quickly, cleanly and efficiently create large, well shaped swaths.

New for 2010 is a new addition to the CLAAS LINER range, the LINER 4000 which has a maximum working width of 15m, making it ideal for use ahead of larger JAGUAR foragers or QUADRANT balers.

The LINER 4000 has four equal sized 3.80m diameter rotors mounted on hydraulically extendable arms, giving a range of working widths from 12.20m to 15m and swaths from 1.50m to 2.60m wide.

Each rotor has 14 PROFIX tine arms, each with triple bearing support and carrying four dual tines, which if necessarily can be quickly removed. The rotors are mechanically driven and feature a sealed, continuously lubricated rotor housing containing a long-life graphite iron cam track.

The new conditioner versions of the 8.10m DISCO 8400 CONTOUR and 8.90m DISCO 9100 CONTOUR utilise the well-proven CLAAS conditioner unit that is fitted with rubber-mounted steel tines. As previously, each mower unit incorporates the ACTIVE FLOAT hydro-pneumatic suspension system that as conditions change, allows the ground pressure to be changed from the cab.

If required, a full width spreader hood can also be fitted so that the crop can be spread across the full width of the mower.

The mowers use the CLAAS CONTOUR centrally pivoting 3.40m or 3.00m mowing units. The outer units feature an automatic breakback system which, due to the 15 degree mounting of the pivot arm, means that when an obstruction is hit, the whole mower unit swings back and lifts to avoid potential damage.

The mowers are operated using the CLAAS STANDARD terminal which allows the operator to pre-select the lifting sequence and then activate that sequence at the press of a button, or for short work each unit can be lifted individually.

Each rotor is carried on a four-wheel chassis fitted with 650-8 10PR tyres and cardan suspension, making the rotor free to move independently of the chassis. This provides three-dimensional tracking across uneven ground which, combined with the ability of the tines to stay parallel to the ground, ensures a clean sweep. In addition, all four rotors are steered to avoid scuffing when turning.

The LINER 4000 is controlled using either the CLAAS COMMUNICATOR control unit or any other ISOBUS compatible terminal. In operation, in addition to setting the working and swath width, the terminal can be used to individually lift each rotor and to set the required working height, plus up to four rake heights can be individually stored and called-up. In addition, the operator is able to alter the headland lifting and lowering time sequence, and also the lift height.

For transport, the LINER 4000 is carried on a sprung and hydraulically lowered 50kph rated chassis equipped with 620/40 R22.5 tyres for optimum stability. As each rotor is lifted, it automatically lowers to keep transport height to below 4.0m.



JAGUAR Updates for 2010

A number of updates have been introduced on the JAGUAR 900 forage harvester range for 2010, principally to better handle the high outputs that these machines are capable of.

New JAGUAR 300HD Pro pick-up

The new heavy-duty 3.0m wide Pro pick-up has been designed to efficiently handle the high outputs achieved by these machines. Where used on the higher powered JAGUAR 900 models, this new header will enable these models to handle the bigger swaths and increased output potential from the new 15m wide LINER 4000 rake.

Structurally, the new 300HD Pro pick-up is built around a high strength main frame. For speed and simplicity, the pick-up incorporates a quick-coupler drive attachment system which, along with the locking mechanism, are both located on the left-hand side of the pick-up.

The pick-up reel is fitted with five tine-bars to reduce the stress loading from working in heavy, dense crops and to aid collection of shorter material. As on current pick-ups, the new heavy-duty unit comes as standard with a double roller crop-press, but to provide greater strength this is manufactured using 25% thicker steel and features new end-caps that are designed to prevent crop wrapping.

To handle the increased crop-flow, the diameter of the intake auger has also been increased by 25%. The drive to the auger is via a strong, 2-speed gearbox and this is protected with an oil-immersed auger clutch designed to handle the heavier loading.

As standard, the new 300HD Pro pick-up is fitted with robust, hydraulically folding pick-up wheels, a replaceable intake floor and scraper bars.

New V-MAX chopping cylinder

For 2010, a new 20-blade V-MAX chopping cylinder will be fitted as standard on the JAGUAR 900 range.

The advantage of this new chopping cylinder compared to the 36-blade cylinder originally fitted, is that the 20-blade cylinder will provide a wide range of chop lengths from 4mm up to 22mm, but without the need to remove blades which was necessary on the 36-blade cylinder in order to achieve the longer chop lengths. By not needing to remove blades, a smoother, more even crop flow is achieved, reducing strain on the forager.

In addition, in order to handle larger, heavier swaths from wider rakes, the new 20-blade cylinder has a solid centre for greater strength and the feed roller speed has been increased by 15%.

TELEMATICS web monitoring for JAGUAR

Following the success of the unique TELEMATICS web-based information system on the LEXION range of combine harvesters, CLAAS has now developed a similar system for the JAGUAR 900 range of forage harvesters, which for the first time will enable operators to monitor and record for later analysis, settings and output information via a computer or any web-enabled portable device.

From the wealth of data available, many recorded machine parameters can be compared. For instance, it is possible to monitor fuel consumption but also because TELEMATICS will record each time the knives are sharpened, the impact this will have on fuel consumption can then be analysed.

In addition to TELEMATICS, a yield monitoring and mapping system is now available. Potentiometers on the feed rollers initially record the amount of crop being picked up, and this information is then compared to data from moisture sensors located in the chute to establish an accurate yield total.



PRE-PRODUCTION VERDICT

Brian Metcalfe,
North Yorkshire

Metcalfe Farms in Yorkshire have been operating both a new PU300HD on their JAGUAR 980 and a LINER 4000 this summer.

"We had good heavy crops this year but the new LINER 4000 went extremely well," says Brian Metcalfe. "In 1st and 2nd cut we were using it at 12m and then for the lighter 3rd cut we pushed it right out to the full 15m. The operator was very pleased with it, it followed well in the field and was easy to transport."

Without having the heavier duty pick-up on their JAGUAR 980 to handle these larger swaths, Brian reckons that had they still been using a standard pick-up they would certainly have struggled to cope.

"It fed well, especially where there were lumps in the swath," he says. "In good going we could comfortably achieve spot rates up to 14ha/hour and on the right farms and with two loaders on the clamp, we could clear over 100ha a day. It's definitely an improvement."



TELEMATICS boost harvest performance

Gary Naylor is the first to admit that come harvest, he ends up spending far too much time studying all the combine information available using the CLAAS TELEMATICS system.

Gary was one of the first in the UK to have TELEMATICS when Worth Farms bought a new LEXION 580TT three years ago, which has subsequently been changed for a LEXION 600TT with a 10.5m VARIO cutterbar.

"I enjoy technology and the business has always been leading edge. We are prepared to invest in new technology, especially if it will help build efficiency and enable us develop the business. We have used guided steering for a long time for potato planting and have now installed our own RTK system."

Farming 1800ha around Holbeach at the bottom of the Wash, the 690ha of wheat grown is largely a break crop in a six-course rotation majoring on potatoes, which are marketed through a sister company QV Foods and vining peas. In addition to their own crops, the combine is also used for contract work both locally and further afield, even working in Yorkshire last year.

"The driver, Martin Putterill, sees it as a challenge to be as efficient as possible and try and improve his percentage score. Also the last thing he wants is me on the 'phone asking how he's getting on."

"TELEMATICS gives me the ability wherever the combine is working to quickly see on my computer everything that is going on, even when Martin changes the concave by 1mm or exactly what time he changed fields or stopped," says Gary who stresses that this is not a 'Big Brother' tool. "It means that I can see if there is anything I can do to help Martin, or check if there are enough trailers to avoid him stopping. Also by being able to monitor the fuel levels, we can quickly see if any extra fuel will be needed on a long



Gary Naylor, Worth Farms

day, and how much is needed to finish the day, so saving time."

Beyond the day-to-day management of the combine when harvesting, Gary has also used TELEMATICS to look at the 'bigger picture' and look at ways of making harvest more efficient.

"A good example was when deciding what size cutterbar to have for the LEXION 600," he says. "Using the actual headland turning data from the LEXION 580, with CLAAS we calculated whether having the wider 10.5m VARIO was justified and what would be most suitable for the combine in our situation."

"By having evidence of the time spent turning, we have invested in a second Laser Pilot unit and oilseed rape side-knife so that the combine can work across from one side. Also traditionally we would only work until midnight, but having taken on more ground we decided to try working through to 2.00am and I was amazed to see that the output did not drop off as much as we expected."

After three very different seasons, Gary adds that it is interesting to see the differences that are shown up, such as how much less fuel they have used this year due to the drier conditions.

"The first year we had the LEXION 580, as it was our first CLAAS combine it was also reassuring to be able to look at how other more experienced users had their combines set to handle the difficult conditions. Plus it's useful to have an immediate yield map available and so get a flavour of what's happening."

"I have been extremely satisfied with how 'live' it is and the information is invaluable. I would certainly be lost without TELEMATICS and could certainly not manage our harvest as well without it."

A commitment built on service support

A combination of a high level of dealer support and service from Gordons, plus an attractive purchase package has resulted in Stranraer contractor Brian Paxton committing a large proportion of his machinery fleet to CLAAS.

Top of his purchase list over the past year has been three new combines – a LEXION 560TT and two LEXION 520s, plus a JAGUAR 890 Speedstar, an AXION and four ARION tractors.

Annually harvesting up to 1600ha within a 20 mile radius for a total of 36 customers whose crops range from just 7ha up to 340ha is demanding enough. Add to that the fact that spring barley accounts for most of the work, that few farms have drying facilities and weather windows in the west of Scotland are short, all means that Brian has to have the flexibility and capacity to cope.

"I have always had at least three combines and sometimes four," says Brian who has bought CLAAS for the last 20 years. "Gradually I have been increasing combine size and whilst in the past I have bought four-year old machines and kept them four years, with the package offered it made sense to buy new and I will keep these six years instead."

"The LEXION 560TT is the first time I have had tracks and I now wish I had had them before. It would be very hard to persuade me not to have them in future. They were superb in the wet, compaction was considerably reduced and fantastic on the hills."

"Whilst the LEXION 560 was bought to provide high output on larger farms, because the straw is more valuable than the grain, we rarely use the choppers so don't need engine power, so the smaller LEXION 520s give me the same

output as the larger LEXION 530, but also suit smaller farmers who often do their own carting."



Having previously run two foraging teams based around a self-propelled forager and a trailed forager powered by a hired-in 250hp tractor, whilst the forager was not due to be changed, with an increase in workload when Brian looked at his running costs and compared these to running a new JAGUAR 890 Speedstar, they worked out the same so, he says, it was a 'no brainer'.

In the event, such was the demand for his services, especially for a part service where customers do their own mowing or carting, he ended up having to buy another used JAGUAR 870 to cope, with the two machines clearing 2,600ha including 200ha of maize and some whole crop by the end of the season.

Like the forager, as his main tractors were only between 12 and 18 months old, Brian had no plans to change any of them this year. However, faced with a change in dealership and concerned about ongoing service and support he approached Gordons about a change.

"The dealership had changed a number of times in the past four years and to be uncertain about the back-up I was going to receive was not acceptable, so I approached Gordons about changing all the tractors," explains Brian who subsequently bought an AXION 810, two ARION 640s and an ARION 630 and 620.

"The drivers love the tractors; they are extremely driver friendly and comfortable, plus the running costs are very good. But it is the continuity of service which is important for me, as I know that if I have a problem, Gordons will be there for me, plus Newbridge is only a couple of hours away. In the past I have even had their technicians arrive at 6.00am in order to get a problem fixed before the day starts; you can't ask for more."



FW Awards double for Nick Padwick

Mark Mackenzie/FW

Congratulations to Nick Padwick, manager of the Co-Operative Farms' Stoughton Estate, who is not only this year's winner of the Farmers Weekly 'Farm Manager of the Year' award, which is sponsored by CLAAS UK, but then went on to win the overall 'Farmer of the Year' gold award.

Congratulations also to runners-up Matthew Bowe, manager of the Denham Estate in Suffolk and Simon Beddows who manages Dunsen Green Farm in Berkshire.

Since being appointed manager of the 1,700ha Stoughton Estate near Leicester, Nick has instigated policies that have not only transformed the estate, but have had far wider consequences throughout the Co-Operative Farms' group.

One of his first actions was to completely review the machinery fleet on the estate and the subsequent changes not only had a positive impact at Stoughton, but then formed the basis of a review implemented on other farms in the group.

However, whilst Nick is without doubt a highly skilled and professional manager, it was his wider perspective that not only won him the 'Farm Manager of the Year' award, but was also recognised in his being awarded the overall 'Farmer of the Year' award.

Central to this is Nick's enthusiasm for teaching others about farming and the role that agriculture plays in all our lives.

In 2005, Nick and his wife Michelle hosted their first primary school visit on the farm, with the aim of educating local children on how food is produced. Now four years later, 20,000 children will visit seven Co-Operative farms under the 'From Farm to Fork' banner.

Nick has also introduced a training programme for the 50-60 harvest students employed by the company throughout the UK, where they all initially come to Stoughton for a week's machinery and safety training.

In addition, he has also been pivotal in the drive to shorten the links between the Co-Operative's farming and retailing operations. As a result, the policy throughout the business is to increase the amount of own-produced produce on the shelves, whether it be milling wheat for flour, vegetables or even honey.

You're immediately struck by Nick Padwick's enthusiasm and motivation for what he does. This man is a high achiever with a can-do attitude.

Adrian Cannon – Independent judge.



"Nick's achievements in managing the Stoughton Estate are immense. It's remarkable that he's found the time to drive forward From Farm to Fork. He is a fantastic advocate for the industry." Jane King – Editor, Farmers Weekly.

Congratulations to the other category award winners:

Peter Riley (Arable Advisor of the Year)
 Andrew Gloag (Arable Farmer of the Year)
 Alistair Bull (Beef Farmer of the Year)
 Charlie Baker (Contractor of the Year)
 Nicholas Watts (Countryside Farmer of the Year)
 Anthony Gotthard (Dairy Farmer of the Year)
 Caroline & William Alexander (Diversification Farmer of the Year)
 Russell Armstrong (Green Energy Farmer of the Year)
 Rob Mintern (Livestock Advisor of the Year)
 Steve & Heather Tucker (Local Food Farmer of the Year)
 Martin Baker (Pig Farmer of the Year)
 David Speller (Poultry Farmer of the Year)
 Chris & Caroline Hodgkins (Sheep Farmer of the Year)
 James Price (Young Farmer of the Year)
 Elin Jones & Christianne Glossop (Farming Champions of the Year)

For information on all the Award winners, please visit:
<http://www.farmersweeklyawards.co.uk/>



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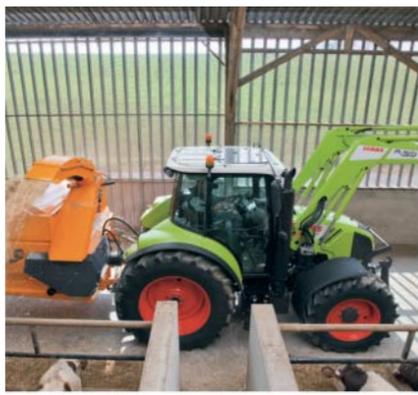
Remote control comic tractor

The countdown is on!
 Keep an eye out for the postman in late November when they will be delivering your exclusive CLAAS KIDS advent calendar!

Annie's Crossword Winners

Well done to all of those who completed Annie's Crossword in the last KidsTimes and congratulations to the winners below who each received a model CLAAS tractor.

Miss Olivia Baker (9) from Okehampton.
 Miss Alice Stott (10) from Preston.
 Master Ted Cox (9) from Beckley.
 Master Robin Masson (10) from Castletown.
 Master Liam Goddard (9) from Retford.



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